

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

FEA-01 AID-05 COME-00 IGA-02 /081 W

----- 095499

R 110800Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CONVOYS AND FUEL

REF: ASMARA 1004 (DTG 021325Z DEC 76)

1. CONVOY FROM MASSAWA ARRIVED IN ASMARA DEC 7 BRINGING AVGAS AND FUEL FOR POWER STATION AT BELEZA. ON DEC 9, TANKERS WERE ESCORTED TO BELEZA TO DELIVER THE FUEL. COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC IS AGAIN NORMAL, WITH NO MORE OVERFLIGHTS BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVGAS ON THE GROUND. SECOND FUEL CONVOY TO MASSAWA THIS WEEK DEPARTED ASMARA ON DEC 10 AND, IF ALL GOES WELL, SIXTY TANKERS AND TRUCKS WILL RETURN DEC 11.

2. COMMERCIAL SALES OF MOGAS THIS WEEK ARE VIRTUALLY NIL. CARS HAVE BEEN IN LINE AT STATIONS DAILY FROM DAWN TO DUSK TO NO AVAIL. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT COULD CONGEN OBTAIN MAXIMUM 10 LITERS EACH FOR TWO VEHICLES OWNED BY CONGEN PERSONNEL.

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COMMERCIAL STORAGE TANKS ARE FULL BUT MOGAS IS BEING CONSERVED.

AUTHORIZING OFFICER (2ND DIV.) HAS ASSURED US, HOWEVER, NORMAL MOGAS SALES TO BE RESUMED NEXT WEEK, PRESUMABLY AFTER CONVOY RETURNS FROM MASSAWA ON DEC 11.

3. SALES OF KEROSENE SEVERELY LIMITED. WEEKLY RATION IS 2 LITERS PER FAMILY, DOWN FROM USUAL 5 LITERS PER FAMILY PER WEEK SINCE LAST YEAR. UP TO 300 PERSONS IN LINES WAITING HOURS TO OBTAIN FAMILY RATION.

4. FIRST CONVOY FOR OVER A MONTH REACHED ADI-UGRI (54 KM SOUTH OF ASMARA) DEC 8, MAKING ROUND-TRIP IN ONE DAY. CONVOY CONSISTED OF 2-3 FUEL TANKERS AND TRUCKS WITH SUPPLIES FOR MILITARY. TANKERS CARRIED FUEL TO POWER STATION.

5. MANAGER OF ASMARA COTTON TEXTILE MILL NOW BELIEVES IT HOPELESS TO EXPECT BARATTOLO PLANTATION NEAR TESSENNEY TO SUPPLY COTTON IN THE FUTURE. INTERMITTENT INSURGENT RAIDS TO DESTROY OR STEAL MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT HAS REDUCED PRODUCTION CAPACITY TO ZERO. LAST WEEK 13 MORE PLANTATION TRACTORS WERE PUT OUT OF COMMISSION. ASMARA MILL HOWEVER HAS ONE HAND A SIX-MONTH SUPPLY OF RAW COTTON, ALMOST ALL OF IT BROUGHT IN RECENTLY AS AIR CARGO IN DAILY DC-6 FLIGHTS.  
SLUTZ

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